

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /143 W
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R 221408Z APR 74

FM AMEFBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5858

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

GUAKJCS/CJCS

MUSSAG

DEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5684

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI CB

SUBJECT: CONSCRIPTION UPDATE

REF: PHNOM PENH 5426

1. SUMMARY: THE PERIOD APRIL 27-21 SAW THE BEST RECENT PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN AS PHNOM PENH PRODUCED 472 MEN. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED TO BEGIN THE DRAFT OF CIVIL SERVANTS, SPARKING AN INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING TO THRASH OUT DETAILS OF THE PROCUDURES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSCRIPTION OFFICIALS APPARENTLY CAME OUT OF THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS REVITALIZED AS PHNOM PENH GENERATED 472 MEN IN THE TRUNCATED APRIL 17-21 PERIOD. DRAFT NOTICES CON-
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TINUED TO GO OUT AT ABOUT 350 A DAY. THE PERFORMANCE, UNEQUALED

IN THIS SECOND PHASE OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN, BROUGHT THE CAPITAL'S ACCESSIONS TO 18,009 OVER 192 DAYS OF THE DRAFT EFFORT. THE PROVINCES NETTED AN ADDITIONAL 817 TO SWELL TOTAL NATIONAL ACCESSIONS TO 28,009 SINCE THE CAMPAIGN GOT UNDER WAY LAST OCTOBER.

3. THE DRAFT DODGER/DESERTER ROUNDUP DROPPED BACK INTO LOW GEAR, HOWEVER. MIXED TEAMS CAUGHT ONLY 20 DESERTERS AND 32 DRAFT DODGERS BETWEEN APRIL 17-21.

4. ON APRIL 18 THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED TO DRAFT CIVIL SERVANTS. DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN ASKED MINISTRIES REPRESENTED AT AN APRIL 22 WORKING MEETING ON CONSCRIPTION TO PREPARE A CENSUS OF THEIR MALE PERSONNEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO ORDERED HIS STAFFER TO DRAW UP TERMS OF SERVICE FOR FUNCTIONARIES. THAPPANA LED A DISCUSSION OF RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, DISCIPLINE AND SALARIES FOR DRAFTED CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING CONSENSUS:

- A. DRAFTED CIVIL SERVANTS WILL CONTINUE TO DRAW SALARIES AT THEIR CIVILIAN GRADE;
- B. ALL WILL BE SUBJECT TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE;
- C. THE DRAFT WILL COVER 18-35 YEAR OLDS;
- D. ALL WILL BE LIABLE FOR SERVICE ON THE BATTLEFIELD RATHER THAN EAR-MARKED SOLELY FOR DESK WORK.

5. SOSTHENE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE CONSCRIPTION MANTLE IS STILL NOT PUBLIC AND, AS COULD BE EXPECTED, IS CAUSING SOME TURBULENCE. SOME CONSCRIPTION OFFICIALS ARE USING THE CHANGE IN RESPONSIBILITY TO BAIL OUT. JOINT CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF BG YONG YOC HANG, WHOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOSTHENE HAS BEEN STRAINED IN THE PAST, APPARENTLY WILL BECOME THAPPANA NGINN'S CHIEF DE CABINET. SINCE HOWEVER THAPPANA NGINN HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WILL BE THE CONTACT POINT FOR THE DRAFT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GENERAL STAFF, HANG WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN SOME WAY. IN CONSCRIPTION MATTERS. MAJOR KANG VANLY, HEAD OF MIXED TEMAS, PLANS TO TRANSFER TO QUIETER GENDARMERIE DUTIES. SUFFICIENT JOINING CONSCRIPTION STAFF PERSONNEL WILL STAY ON TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE

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PROGRAM.
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